Living In The Life in Atlanta

A documentary series of the Black LGBTQ experience in Atlanta

About the project

Atlanta has rapidly grown to be the Black Gay Mecca of the United States. Rich with history from the civil war, civil rights movement, and its progressive city agenda, Black GLBT life in Atlanta is itself another chapter that should be recorded for all to experience and learn from.

This project will seek to document the experiences of Black LGBT residents of Atlanta, preserving this rich history and vibrant community for future generations, allies, and family to share. We will focus on the personal experience, the impact of various individuals, places, and events.

The Series

The series will consist of a minimum of two separate 60 – 90 minute episodes. Each episode will focus on a defined period of time, in chronological order as appropriate. The format will consist be a narrative format with both video and audio only interview sound bites, narration of written accounts, and visual presentation of photos, art, music, and other representations of the time.

Research and data collection

A key component of this project will be a detailed and focused research and data-gathering project on a scale that has never been completed in Atlanta. We will need to identify and locate current and past living residents of the Atlanta metro area, frequent visitors, and in some cases, family of those who may no longer be living. A consistent methodology for interviewing and recording must be established. Interview teams will be trained and paired up for meeting with potential community historians

This process will require the most time and detail to ensure an accurate and complete representation of available information. A separate team will be responsible for data validation and verification (fact checking) to ensure accuracy.

Basic Resources (not at all a comprehensive list, but a place to start)

- The following basic resources will be required to collect and properly archive the material
- Reliable to decent quality video recording equipment supporting the MiniDV digital format. Recorders must also support Firewire or IEEE1394 connectivity for digital connectivity to computer and editing equipment
- Portable audio mixing equipment to support connectivity of multiple recording devices and video recorders
- Lighting equipment for video and still photography
- High quality digital photography equipment
- Video and audio editing software and appropriate hardware (Final Cut Pro for Mac) appropriate storage (disks drives and backup medium)
- DVD authoring software, DVD writers, label and printing capability
- Reliable audio only recording devices.
- Consistent access to a space for conducting interviews, meetings, and editing reviews

Funding

Funding will be certainly become a more important part of this project as we move to the actually production phase. Initially, the pre-production process will be funded out of pocket, with donated time and materials, and hopefully, financial support from local organizations. It is my vision that we can produce a 10-minute teaser that can be used for presenting to potential investor, donors, and grant requests. Given the resources in the community, I am confident that we can produce this on a very tight budget and after completing the first in the series; we will be in a position to expand the production and distribution from sales of the series as well.

Staff

The initial staff will consist of key directors under the lead of the Producer who will be responsible for developing staff in their key areas. Initial staff will include but not be limited to:

Producer : Michael E. Slaughter

The producer has blanket responsibility for the project. All key staff report to the producer, who will drive the direction of the project. With input for area directors, the producer will make final decisions about content, layout, and final presentation of various components of the project

Director of Research: (TBA)

The Director of Research is responsible for assembling a team of researchers to collect historical data relevant to the project. This person should be well connected in the community or bring on persons who can provide connections to difficult to reach persons who have a relevant story to tell.

Director of Videography: (TBA)

The Director of Videography will be responsible for all aspects of video, audio, and photographic recording of interviews, onsite visit to key places, and other items as identified by the research team or the Producer.

Finance Director: (TBA)

The Finance Director will be responsible for managing the income and expenses of the project, particularly as it may apply to grants, donations, and outside support.

Director of Narrative content: (TBA)

The Director of Narrative content will be responsible for the core scripting of the narrative aspects of the project. This will include writing, editing, and close coordination with the Director of Research to tie in narrative content to the historical data, interviews, and other content.

Narrator: (TBA)

To ensure a consistent presentation, a narrator must be identified and commit to the entire project.

Location Manager: (TBA)

The location manger will be responsible for scheduling use or public or private property for video and photo shoots, coordinating resources as needed on location, coordinating transportation, and other duties that may be appropriate